

DETAILED ACTION

- Applicant's response was received October 01, 2008.
- Claims 1-17 are cancelled.
- Claims 18-22 are allowed.
- Amended specification is accepted.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and or additions be acceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no latter than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gerald E. Laws on 10/20/08.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

As per claim 18:

Line 10; insert ---An--- before ---error checking and correction (ECC) circuitry---.

Line 15; insert ---An--- before ---interrupt circuitry---.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. Claims **18-22** are allowed. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claim 18 of the present application teaches, for example, A data processing system, comprising a non-volatile memory unit having an address input, a data input and a

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corrected data output, the non-volatile memory unit comprising a main memory coupled to the data input and the address input for storing signal groups; an error checking and correction (ECC) memory coupled to the data input and the address input for storing error correction bits, wherein the main memory and the ECC memory determine a first logic state by means of a stored charge and determine a second logic state by means of a lack of stored charge; error checking and correction (ECC) circuitry coupled to the main memory and to the ECC memory being operable to detect an error in a signal group retrieved from the main memory in response to an address provided on the address input, and being operable to correct the error in the signal group and to output the corrected signal group on the corrected data output, the ECC circuitry comprising: interrupt circuitry operable to selectively signal an interrupt, such that an interrupt is signaled when the ECC circuitry determines the error in the signal group resulted from a bit signal that should be in the first state but was instead in the second state, and such that an interrupt is not signaled when the ECC circuitry determines the error in the signal group resulted from a bit signal that should be in the second state but was instead in the first state.

The foregoing limitations are not found in the prior arts of record. Particularly, none of the prior arts of record teach nor fairly suggest, "... *the ECC circuitry comprising: interrupt circuitry operable to selectively signal an interrupt, such that an interrupt is signaled when the ECC circuitry determines the error in the signal group resulted from a bit signal that should be in the first state but was instead in the second state, and such that an interrupt is not signaled when the ECC circuitry determines the error in the signal group resulted from a bit signal that should be in the second state but was instead in the first state*". Consequently, claim 18 is allowed over the prior arts.

Claims **19-22**, which is/are directly or indirectly dependent/s of claim 18 are also allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Esaw T. Abraham whose telephone number is (571) 272-3812. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jacques Louis-Jacques can be reached on (571) 272-6962. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Esaw T Abraham/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2112